



NEWS RELEASE

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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VIRGINIA'S CORN, PEANUT AND COTTON YIELDS UP FROM THE PREVIOUS FORECAST

Virginia corn producers are anticipating a record corn yield. The forecast yield of 147 bushels per acre is 1 bushel greater than the record set in 2000, 2 bushels higher than last month and 32 bushels greater than the 2003 yield. Production is estimated at nearly 50 million bushels, up 32 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 340,000 acres in 2004.

Cotton yields are forecast at 889 pounds per acre, up 53 pounds from last month and 215 pounds above last year. Production is expected to total 150,000 bales. Cotton growers in the Commonwealth expect to harvest 81,000 acres in 2004.

Virginia's peanut producers expect to average 3,200 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from the October forecast and up 300 pounds from last year. Peanut production is expected to total 102.4 million pounds from 32,000 acres.

Soybean producers are making good progress with 51 percent of the crop harvested compared to 48 percent last year. The November forecast for soybean yield is estimated at 37 bushels per acre, equal to the previous forecast but up 3 bushels from last year. Virginia soybean producers are expected to harvest 520,000 acres, up 8 percent from last year.

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CORN PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT FROM OCTOBER FORECAST

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

COTTON PRODUCTION UP 5 PERCENT

Corn production is forecast at 11.7 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month and 16 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of November 1, the yield is expected to average 160.2 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from October and 18.0 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous records for both were set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Across the U.S., yields are forecast at record high levels in 19 of the 33 published corn States. With the exception of Wisconsin, yields in the Corn Belt States are forecast at record highs as weather conditions have been mostly favorable throughout the growing season.

Soybean production is forecast at 3.15 billion bushels, up 1 percent from October and 28 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average a record high 42.6 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from October and 8.7 bushels above last year. Producers in the Corn Belt, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Carolinas are realizing higher yields than expected last month, while yield prospects decreased as harvest progressed in North Dakota and Minnesota. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 74.0 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 2 percent from 2003.

All cotton production is forecast at 22.5 million 480-pound bales, up 5 percent from October and up 23 percent from last year's production. Yield is expected to average a record high 818 pounds per harvested acre, up 36 pounds from last month. If realized, the yield will be 88 pounds above the previous record high yield established in 2003. Record high yields are expected in Arkansas, California, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. Harvested area, at 13.2 million acres, is unchanged from October but 10 percent above 2003.

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